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A letter to the Conductor of the Critical Review on the subject of Religious toleration, 1s. 6d.

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Advice to Sportsmen, with Anecdotes of the most renowned shots, Hints in the choice of Dogs, Guns, &c. with 16 Engravings; by Rowlandson.

The Analysis of Beauty, by Hogarth, and Rules for drawing Caricatures; with an Essay on Comic Painting; by Francis Grose, F.R.S. 1 vol. 8vo. 15s.

The History of the Life and Reign of Alexander the Great translated from Quintus Curtius, 25s.

The Complete Angler; by Walton and Cotton, with notes, by Sir John Hawkins, and the present Editor, 15s.

Cambria Triumphans, or Britain in its perfect lustre; by Percy Enderbie, gent.

Naufugia or Historical Memoirs of Shipwrecks, and of the Providential deliverance of Vessels; by James Stanier Clarke, F.R.S. 6s. 6d.

An inquiry into the Effects produced by the Bank restriction bills on the national currency, with plans for maintaining the national coins in a state of perfection and uniformity; by R. Mushet of his Majesty's mint, 4s.

The Butcher's Book, consisting of printed forms so drawn up, as to be of great assistance to the trade, 3s.

The County Annual Register, containing the Domestic Annals of the various counties of England, 1 vol. 8vo.

A Letter to Basil Montagu, esq. on his remarks relative to a passage on Criminal law in Dr. Paley's works, 1s. 6d.

NOTICE OF BOOKS TO BE PUBLISHED.

SHORTLY TO BE PUT TO PRESS,

A Collection of Psalms and Hymns proper for Christian Worship, and for the use of congregations and families, selected and arranged, by the Rev. A. G. Malcolm, A. M. Presbyterian Minister of Newry; assisted by several judicious friends of the Presbyterian ministry.

This compilation will contain upwards of four hundred Psalms, and Hymns embracing all the principal subjects of Christian faith and practice, and arranged according to their subjects, under proper heads, so as to make the work assume, as much as possible, a regular and connected form. As one considerable object of the compiler is to produce a good family book of devotional compositions in verse, a considerable number of Psalms and Hymns will be introduced, which are particularly adapted to family worship.

MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

AFFAIRS on the Continent have proceeded in a very even tenor since Bonaparte's second marriage. After fifteen years of warfare, he seems for the first time to divest himself of care and enjoy luxurious repose in the arms of youthful beauty. Is this apparent indifference to the wonted objects of his ambition real or delusive? Can the stern warrior be indeed softened into the uxorious husband; or is it merely a seasonable compliment to his new Empress, and an exercise of his usual policy in order to soothe the irritation, and lull the apprehensions of her father? Whatever may be the

cause, his conduct relative to Spain has created considerable surprise; and we suppose that after the battle of Talavera, had not Lord Wellington judged of the reinforcements coming to that country rather by Bonaparte's usual procedure than by what from appearances has actually taken place, he would have marched forwards to Madrid, and from the specimen they had recently received of the valour of our troops, probably without much farther opposition. The last accounts mention his lordship's having again marched into Spain at the head of 25 or 26,000 troops, and a large body of Portu-

guez, commanded by Marshall Beresford, but we fear it is now too late, and that even the gaining of a battle would only retard for a little the subjugation of Portugal, without benefiting Spain, and at a very disproportionate expense of valuable lives. The accounts we receive of the operations in the Peninsula are rather contradictory; but we can easily collect two things, that the reinforcements to the French armies there, are neither so numerous nor quick in their progress as they were expected to be after peace was concluded with Austria, and, that nevertheless, they are still progressively advancing in the conquest of that country. We might speculate on the time it will require to put Spain and Portugal in the entire possession of the enemy; but it will be better to wait until the course of events renders it a bare statement of facts;—just observing, that Cadiz which was held up as a second Gibraltar, has been greatly reduced from that rank by the reduction of Fort Matagorda, whereby the approaches of the besiegers are considerably facilitated.

As to the other states of Europe, their fate depends in a great measure on the will of Bonaparte, and as he has been quiescent for some months, they have remained quiet also, but will speedily be put in motion when he tires of his present inactivity. Turkey, which still preserves her relations with England, seems alone to engage his attention, as French and Austrian troops are accumulating on her frontiers. The fate of that country is interesting to us, not for itself, but the consequences that must ensue to our eastern possessions, were it soon to become the property of the Imperial triumvirate. These apprehensions, however, are distant; we have dangers nearer and of infinitely greater concern, arising from abuses in the public administration of affairs, the increasing discontents of the people on that account, and a want of confidence in their representatives; which the latter, from some obvious causes, seem both unable and unwilling to regain.

This schism between the commons

and the people is daily widening. With a fair representation of the people, and a house of commons emanating from them, the interests of the electors and the elected could not materially diverge. But the petitions lay open a very different state of things. The people, in the comprehensive sense of that word, have no check whatever over the election of a very numerous body of the members, and even the controul of the people over those supposed to be to a certain degree popularly elected, is very small. The influence of government, either directly or indirectly through landlords and other causes, renders the number of free elections very small indeed. We have the tenants and dependents of some higher dependents, under still higher dependents, rising in almost infinite progression. From these causes, the house of commons is more influenced by the prime minister, who is sometimes only a puppet in the hands of others who pull the wires, than really dependent on the people. Hence arise the jealousies against the assumed privileges of the commons, lest they should be exercised in favour of the encroachments of the prerogative of the crown, rather than against its undue influence, and such is the ground work of the present struggle. As friends to liberty, and advocates for the full establishment of the democratic branch of our government, according to the theory of the constitution, we ardently hope that this struggle may terminate in favour of parliamentary reform on substantial and unequivocal principles, and may never cease until this most important improvement is obtained.

Among the popular proceedings we have in addition to the Westminster meeting, noticed in our last retrospect, to record the resolutions and petitions of the freeholders of Middlesex; and of the livery of London, together with the resolutions of the town of Carmarthen. A long address to Sir Francis Burdett was also voted at the Middlesex meeting, on the motion of Major Cartwright, comprising with some merited eulogiums on the baronet, the Major's plan for

parliamentary reform, and a system of national armed defence. Notwithstanding a sincere wish for reform, and the security of liberty, may it not be permitted to the friends of philanthropy and peace, to express a fear that this system of an armed people would tend to make us too much a warlike nation, and add to the danger already so powerful and likely to prevail, that Europe may relapse into the despotism of military governments, after the model of France?

The advocates for privilege on both sides of the house are rallying, and on this one point coalescing their strength, but there is no appearance of concession to the people. The commons reject the petitions from the freeholders of Middlesex and the livery of London, and ministers reward Charles Yorke by giving to him the place of first lord of the admiralty in addition to the sinecure office of teller of the exchequer. The electors of Cambridgeshire punish him and express their opinion of him by refusing to re-elect him, while ministers afterwards and in defiance reward him. Petitions are rejected because they are not sufficiently submissive; but it cannot be reasonably expected, that the people will not complain when their opinions are so entirely disregarded. The unmeaning lullaby of adulation, or petitions conceived in common-place terms would be unworthy of the cause and the occasion. Freedom speaks a strong language. Colonel Barré gave a virtuous example of spirited opposition in a speech he made in the house of commons many years ago, previous to a secession of the opposition of that day.

It is worthy of record, and is expressed in the following energetic terms :

"Since I had the honour, said Colonel Barré (not to say the dishonour of sitting in this house) I have been witness to many strange, many infamous transactions.

"What can be your intention in attacking all honour and virtue? do you mean to bring all men to a level with yourselves, and to extirpate all honour and independence.

"Perhaps you imagine a vote will settle the whole controversy. Alas! you are not aware that the manner in which your vote is procured is a secret to no man.

"Listen; for if you are not totally callous—if your consciences are not seared, I will speak daggers to your souls, and wake you to all the hells of guilty recollections.

"I will follow you with whips and stings through every maze of your unexampled turpitude, and place thorns under the rose of ministerial approbation. You have flagrantly violated justice and the law of the land, opened a door for anarchy and confusion.

"After assuming an arbitrary dominion over law and justice, you issue orders, warrants and proclamations against every opponent, and send prisoners to your bastille all those who have the courage and virtue to defend the freedom of their country. But it is in vain that you hope by fear and terror to extinguish the native British fire; the more sacrifices, the more martyrs you make, the more numerous the sons of liberty will become; they will multiply like the hydra, and hurl vengeance on your heads. Let others act as they will, while I have a tongue or an arm they shall be free. And that I may not be a witness of these monstrous proceedings I will leave the house; nor do I doubt but every independent, every honest man, every friend to England will follow me.

"These walls are unholy, baleful, deadly, while a prostitute majority holds the bolt of parliamentary power, and hurls its vengeance only upon the virtuous."

The opponents of reform are also zealous out of doors. A partial meeting of the livery of London was called together after the general meeting, but their plan of secrecy was defeated, and the indefatigable Waithman attended, and succeeded in outvoting them, on their own ground. The minority retreated, and published a counter address as was their indisputable right. Free discussion is all that ought to be desired, and although numbers do not constitute a test of truth, it is pleasing to find as an omen of better times that the great majority is in favour of reform. The party-cry of Jacobinism, so successfully employed by Pitt, is losing its force, and reason, after a period of infatua-

tion is returning to assume its sway, while interested and dishonest pretences of false loyalty are losing their hold on the minds of many.

Lord Erskine has advocated the cause of the people in the house of lords on the grounds of law—and a number of the livery of London, headed by the patriotic Sheriff Wood, went in procession to the tower to read to Sir Francis Burdett the resolutions of the livery. These are strong unequivocal proofs that the people do not consider that the house of commons are advocating their cause, or that the privileges of the house are maintained for the benefit of the people as is sometimes asserted in the house. Yet it is doubtful how far the people are prepared to support a cool, steady, deliberate, but persevering opposition to those measures which they consider to be wrong. Some fear it will terminate as the effervescence of the moment. There may be some little inflammation about the head, but are not the body and extremities as cold and torpid as ever?

A feeble opposition without nerve or force can never succeed. To do good effectually, the people must be in earnest, they must have virtuous enthusiasm and not too readily be discouraged by obstacles. We condemn "the right divine to govern wrong," whether advanced in support of the regal power, or as in the present instance by Mr. Ponsonby in defence of exerting the privileges of parliament against the people.

It is a curious fact in the marriage of Bonaparte that the civil marriage preceded the religious contract. By the laws of France marriages duly contracted before the civil legal authorities are valid, and the religious ceremony may be added or not at the option of the parties. This system is wisely adopted upon the liberal plan, that no difficulty should occur in marriage on account of religious persuasions; some conscientiously object to the forms used by the various churches or societies. In England the case is still harder, as there, all must be married with the exception

of Jews and Quakers by a Clergyman of the Church of England.—Every person in France is obliged to appear first, before the magistrate, and then he may go to what religious community he pleases for the completion of his contract if he so inclines, or if he is satisfied with this simple procedure, the contract is valid. Thus perfect religious liberty is in this respect established in France, without any encroachment on the validity of the marriage contract, and it would be well if we were not too proud to borrow from our neighbours.

We are sorry to find that Sir Samuel Romilly's humane and enlightened plans to abridge the list of capital offences has failed for the present. The dread of innovation and resentment against his honest political conduct, have had a momentary triumph, but we look forward to the prospect of success ultimately crowning his humane exertions. Notwithstanding his temporary defeat, this enlightened and liberal senator proceeds in the even tenor of his way, and judiciously couples with his plan, a reform in the system of transportation, and a scheme to employ convicts at hard labour in penitentiary houses.—A plan embracing these three great objects would most materially improve our system of criminal jurisprudence. Sir Samuel's steady perseverance, and his enlightened views of judicial policy, mark a comprehensive mind.

At a meeting of the Common Council of Dublin, a petition to the house of commons for the repeal of the Union between Great Britain and Ireland was agreed to, but being sent to the board of Aldermen for their concurrence, is likely to be cushioned by them. The artifices by which the Union was accomplished, are indefensible, and reflect equal discredit on the grand actor in bribing on the occasion, as well as on those who for themselves, or their relations sold their votes for those bribes. Offices in church and state, and situations of the highest importance, which ought to be kept pure, from the slightest imputations, were according to accredit-

ed report, the wages of prostitution on this occasion. Yet still it is by no means clear that Ireland suffers from the effects of the Union. We have not in the Imperial Parliament a more corrupt legislature, and there is less of the irritation of party politics. Dublin may suffer a little, and the retailers of superfluities may loudly complain of the diminution of their sales, but commerce is independent of such feeble aids, and draws very little support from the luxurious classes. The funds of luxury do little, but the capital employed in trade does much to furnish profitable employment to the working classes, and support the independence of a nation. "Princes and Lords may flourish or may fade."

and so may those most immediately dependant on them, but national happiness is built on a more secure basis, and is founded on frugality, industry, and enlightened and well directed perseverance.

Many failures have taken place in Dublin, and by some these have been attributed to the effects of the union. But no—overtrading, and a wish to imitate the foolish votaries of luxury and folly in high life, often multiply bankruptcies, and produce the evils so justly to be deplored.—Live within compass, and moderate ambitious desires, are maxims admirably calculated to promote the real prosperity of nations or of individuals.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

MEETING OF THE FREEHOLDERS OF MIDDLESEX.

At a numerous and respectable meeting of the freeholders of the county of Middlesex, held at the Mermaid, Hackney, on Thursday the 26th day of April, 1810, pursuant to a requisition, the following resolutions were entered into:

Resolved...That the petition now read be adopted, and that it be presented to the House of Commons by our representatives, George Byng, and William Mellish, esqrs, who are hereby instructed to support the same.

That we highly approve of the proceedings of the Electors of Westminster, at their late meeting; and most heartily concur in the sentiments contained in their

letter to Sir Francis Burdett, and in his answer.

That the thanks of this meeting are due, and are hereby given to Sir Francis Burdett, bart. for his truly patriotic conduct in Parliament; for his unanswered and unanswerable argument in the case of John Gale Jones, vindicating the rights of the subject, and denying the power of the House of Commons to imprison, without trial, and during pleasure, the people of England; for his letter to the Speaker protesting against the power of the House of Commons to imprison, in like manner, one of their members, for laying before his Constituents a faithful account of his conduct in Parliament, and for his constitutional resistance to the Speaker's warrant, whereby he has given a practical illustration of its inefficiency, and has shown that it could not be put in force without military aid, a violation of our ancient laws, and a breach of the privileges of Englishmen.

That these resolutions be fairly transcribed, and presented to Sir Francis Burdett by the sheriff, accompanied by George Byng and William Mellish, esqrs. our representatives.

That the address to Sir Francis Burdett, which has been read, be adopted at the act of this meeting.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to George Byng, esq. one of our representatives, for his general conduct in parliament.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Sheriffs for their readiness in calling this meeting, and for their judicious and impartial conduct in the chair.

That these resolutions be advertised.

M. Wood, }
JOHN ATKINS. } Sheriffs

TO THE HONOURABLE THE COMMONS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The petition of the freeholders of Middlesex agreed to in full county this 26th day of April, 1810

Showeth, that we have observed with concern that in the cases of Mr. John Gale Jones and Sir Francis Burdett, bart. your house assumed and exercised a power unknown to the law and unwarranted by the constitution.

Your Speaker's warrant has been executed by military force—an Englishman's house, his sanctuary, has been violated and the blood of unoffending citizens has been shed in the streets.

Against the existence as well as the